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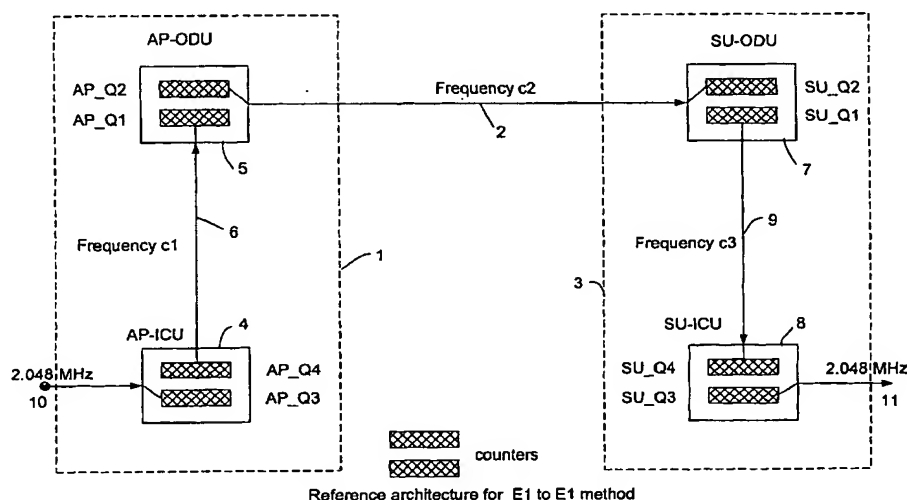
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(54) Title: **SYNCHRONIZATION IN A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: A packet switched communications system for transmitting synchronous data from a source module (4) to a terminating module (8) over a network comprises plurality of modules (4, 5, 7, 8) interconnected via transmission links (2, 6, 9). Each module operates with a clock of nominal frequency but which is not synchronised with the clocks of the other module(s) and has a single input and one or more outputs where all the outputs are phase locked to each other but are not synchronised with respect to the input. The system includes means (405, 504) for determining the accumulated phase difference between the input clock and the output clock of each module, and means (5, 7) for transmitting the accumulated phase difference to the terminating module (8) in the network. The received accumulated phase difference at the terminating module (8) is used to lock the output clock at the terminating module to the input clock at the source module.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04J3/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04J H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 718 995 A (IBM) 26 June 1996 (1996-06-26) column 1, line 5 - line 10 column 2, line 40 - line 59 column 3, line 15 - line 18 figure 2	1,6
A	US 5 062 124 A (AYUKAWA YOSHIBUMI ET AL) 29 October 1991 (1991-10-29) column 1, line 6-12 - line 22-25 column 2, line 32 - line 39 column 3, line 60 - line 65 column 4, line 1-6 - line 14-22	1,6
A	US 5 640 388 A (HAMMOND MAYNARD D ET AL) 17 June 1997 (1997-06-17) column 7, line 18 - line 55	1,6

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.*** Special categories of cited documents :**

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